

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00588 140224Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05
L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /049 W
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R 132115Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6452
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 588

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, BH, US
SUBJECT: PREMIER PRICE'S RECENT TRIP TO U.S.

1. DURING JUNE 12 LUNCHEON, ALMOST FIRST THING PREMIER RAISED WITH ME WAS UNUSUAL EVENT IN NEW YORK SHORTLY AFTER HE ARRIVED LAST WEEK. HE HAD CHECKED INTO LEXINGTON HOTEL AND WAS IN HIS ROOM WHEN PHONE RANG. TO HIS SURPRISE, IT WAS NEWLY ELECTED GUATEMALAN VP, VILLAGRAN KRAMER. VILLAGRAN EXPLAINED HE WAS CALLING AT SUGGESTION OF SENIOR US OFFICIAL AND WISHED HAVE DISCUSSION OVER THE PROBLEM.

2. PRICE SAID HE AND VILLAGRAN HAD HAD INTERESTING TALK. HE FELT NEW GUATEMALA VP WAS INTERESTED AND ANXIOUS TO ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION TO DISPUTE. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO PRICE THAT THEY FORGET OLD DISCUSSIONS AND LOOK FOR NEW ANSWERS. VILLAGRAN SAID HE HAS BEEN CHARGED BY LUCAS TO FOLLOW THE PROBLEM CLOSELY. I ASKED IF VILLAGRAN HAD BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY EQUAL TO HIS RESPONSIBILITY. ALL PRESENT LAUGHED AND SAID THEY DOUBTED IT VERY MUCH.

3. PREMIER IS INTERESTED ENOUGH TO HAVE DELEGATED S.A.
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"SAN" PERDOMO MINISTER OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CO-OPS. AS BELIZEAN LIAISON OFFICER FOR TALKS WITH VILLAGRAN WHO HOPES TO MAKE DIALOGUE OUT OF ORIGINAL CONVERSATION. BELIZEAN REPS. NOT, HOWEVER, OPTIMISTIC.

4. CHOICE OF PERDOMO INTERESTING; HE IS, OBVIOUSLY, OF LATIN BACKGROUND BUT IS NOT THOUGHT OF AS ONE OF INNER

CIRCLE ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT ALWAYS PLACED IN "GANGSTER" CATEGORY,
EITHER. OUR IMPRESSION HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY BRIGHT BUT
RELIABLE AND NOT LIKELY MAKE ANY DECISION WITHOUT FULL
CONSULTATION AND BLESSING OF PREMIER.
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